

Chemisches Institut
der Universität
B o n n
Meckenheimer Allee 168

Professor Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University
Medical Center
Palo Alto, California

April 7, 1962

Dear Professor Lederberg:

You have been so friendly to send me (on my asking) a reprint of your very interesting "view of genetics" some months ago.

During the identification of yeasts isolated from the sea I found out that certain isolations adapted themselves to certain sugars only after a longer period. That's actually not new. What might be new in it is that I grew the yeasts for the carbon assimilation test during a rather long period in the respective sugar media. The inoculum I used was dilluted enough so that no growth occurred without the addition of sugars. The test tube culteres with the liquid medium were shaken (according to AHEARN et al.). Now I found that some isolations of for example Debaryomyces subglobosus did grow immediately in the lactose medium, some did so after three weeks, some after five weeks, some after seven weeks, etc. until the last ones did grow after seventeen weeks of shaking.

Do I understand your view of genetics in the right way when I learn of it that all protein synthesis is genecontrolled? That would mean genemutations in the above mentioned cases, wouldn't it?

I should appreciate it when you would be so friendly to write me whether I am right in learning from your paper that all protein synthesis is genecontrolled. Or whether I perhaps better might be careful in applying your findings in bacteria to yeasts.

Respectfully yours,

R. Siepmann
Rolf Siepmann

You proably wonder why I write to you and ask you for an advice. But your and your coworkers findings in genetics are only slowly coming over to Germany - I really don't know any body here whom I might ask.

Rolf Siepmann